

— MARCH CLUB MEETING —

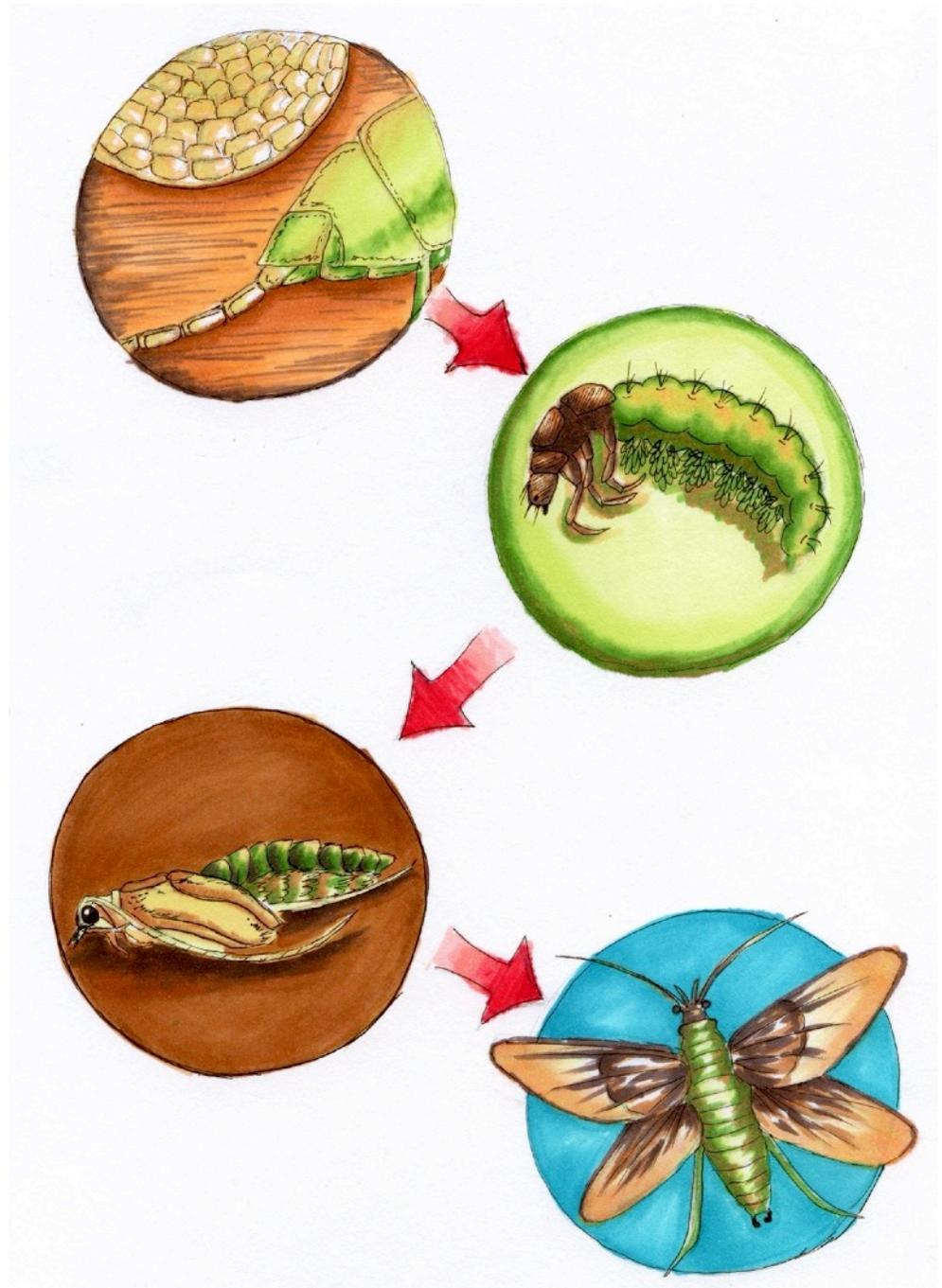
## **Talking About Bugs with Chuck Dinkel**

By Larry Forte

**B**ugs are a mystery to me, especially when they are hatching around me and I can't figure out what dry fly to use. At our March monthly meeting, our very own bug expert Chuck Dinkel will talk about entomology, defined as the scientific study of insects.

Chuck will help explain some of the mystery about bugs — which, when you come down to it, is what fly fishing is all about. Plus, you can expect a pun or two as well!

This will be our first in-person meeting in three months. It promises to be a fun night. And the best news of all: our March meeting will be back at Tuscarora High School. We hope you can join us on Tuesday, March 8, at 6:30 PM. As of February 25, masks are not required.



# Beginner's Fly Tying: Red Tag (Wet & Dry)

By Don Fine



Red Tag Wet Fly, courtesy midcurrent.com

Realizing that spring trout season is upon us, I sought to find a fly pattern which would provide our Beginner's class with new tying techniques and a pattern which is easily adaptable to tying dry fly patterns. As such, for our next tying session on March 15 at 7 PM, I chose the **Red Tag Wet** and a modification of it, the **Red Tag Dry**. Both of these

patterns can be easily modified for tying classic wet and dry flies to use this spring for trout fishing and, subsequently, for panfish later this year.

I would appreciate those who plan to attend the event at Trinity United Methodist Church to notify me at [dfine1443@gmail.com](mailto:dfine1443@gmail.com) to ensure I have enough materials available for the class.

PVFF is member driven, which means volunteers do everything. Volunteer positions include elected board positions — as well as other areas, such as mentoring, leading outings, website, social media, newsletter, conservation, feeding the trout at the trout pen, and other opportunities. Contact Andy Mekelburg at [andymekelburg@outlook.com](mailto:andymekelburg@outlook.com) if you'd like to help support the club.

# Advanced Fly Tying: Little Black Stone Fly & Yellow Tailed Black Fly

By Larry Forte



At our Advanced Fly Tying gathering on March 16 at 7:00 PM, Randy Underwood will show us how to tie the **little black stone fly** for early trout and his very own **yellow tailed black fly** for summer bluegills.

We will meet in Room 109 at Trinity Church. For those that prefer to join us via ZOOM, no problem.

We will have a Zoom hook-up at the church for folks.

Interested? We would love for you to join us. Just let me or Don Fine know. You can sign up on our website or you can email me at

**lbforte@verizon.net**.

## Please Renew Your PVFF Club Membership Dues for 2022

It's easy: just fill out the **Membership Application/Renewal form** at the end of this newsletter and send with your payment to the address shown on the form to Dave Dowiak, membership chairperson. Be sure to provide your email address, as the monthly "Streamlines" newsletter and virtual monthly meetings (in addition to other important announcements) are sent via email. If you prefer to renew online, visit **[pvff.club/club-membership/](http://pvff.club/club-membership/)** to fill out the form and pay with PayPal or credit card. — **Dave Dowiak**

# PVFF Home Waters Clean Up: April 2

By Dave Keane

Our club will once again clean up our home waters and support *Project Clean Stream* in April.

As spring arrives, tens of thousands of volunteers come together to remove trash from local streams, creeks, rivers, and parks as part of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's *Project Clean Stream* — the largest cleanup event in the Chesapeake Bay region! Cleanups take place across the entire Chesapeake watershed, in all six Bay states and DC. Check out the Alliance's website for all of the great work that they do at [allianceforthebay.org](http://allianceforthebay.org).

Dress for the weather and bring gloves, water, and waders if you plan to work in Catoctin Creek. We will be cleaning up along the entrance to the park,

Catoctin Creek, and reforestation areas. The nature center will provide trash bags.

**When:** April 2, 2022

**Time:** 10:00 am -12:00 pm

**Where:** Catoctin Creek Nature Center —  
2929 Sumantown Road Middletown, MD  
21769

**Stream:** Catoctin Creek

We hope you can join club members this year in cleaning up our home waters and supporting Project Clean Stream. Please send Dave Keane, Conservation Chair, an email at [plantprotection@comcast.net](mailto:plantprotection@comcast.net) if you plan to participate in this event.



Catoctin Clean Up in 2021. Right to Left: Craig Falk, Ashu Rao, Dennis Allen, Phil Clevon



## Project Healing Waters: Getting Ready for the Season

By Andrew Frutiger

Have you ever been fishing and everything was going your way? The weather is perfect, your casts are as near perfect as they are going to be, you've tied the right fly, and the fish are jumping into your net. You know that it won't last forever, so you just enjoy the moment for what it is, as preparation meets opportunity (with a dash of luck). That's how it feels with Project Healing Waters right now. We've been here and done this before. Collin has the fly tying humming right along. We've improved the approach to rod building and veterans will now have the ability to fish their own rods this spring. Casting and river awareness are greatly improved. Within a few weeks, we will be well prepared for the season and looking for opportunities: looking for those perfect (and not so perfect) days where everything has the chance to go right.

Speaking of going right. I want to acknowledge the incredible relationship the American Legion has fostered with our group. They continue to be an outstanding partner, from offering us an incredible space, free of charge, to regular donations of funds to help improve the experience for the veterans.

Finally, all luck must finally run its course. This spring, Project Healing Waters Frederick Chapter loses two of the finest people we've had the honor to work with: volunteers Jim Lowell and Col. Patrick Staley, retired. Jim is heading off to retirement and Patrick is off to Mississippi. For anyone who has not met either of these gentlemen, they are both key contributors, directly responsible

for the success of our chapter. We would not be where we are today without the guidance and commitment of these two gentlemen. We wish them both the best of luck with their new endeavors.

If you have any questions or would like to participate in any of our upcoming fly tying sessions at Fort Detrick, please reach out to me at any time at [andrewfrutiger@yahoo.com](mailto:andrewfrutiger@yahoo.com) or go to our Facebook page at *Project Healing Waters — Frederick Chapter*.



# Meet a Member: Martyn Holland

Column coordinated by Mike Holland



Martyn Holland

## How long have you been fly fishing?

Nearly 60 years, interrupted during my “wasted” years in college and working in London and New York.

## What type of fly fishing do you like the most?

Dry fly and wading. I have done multiple floats and find that I enjoy the thrill of the hunt far more than cruising down a river hoping to cover fish.

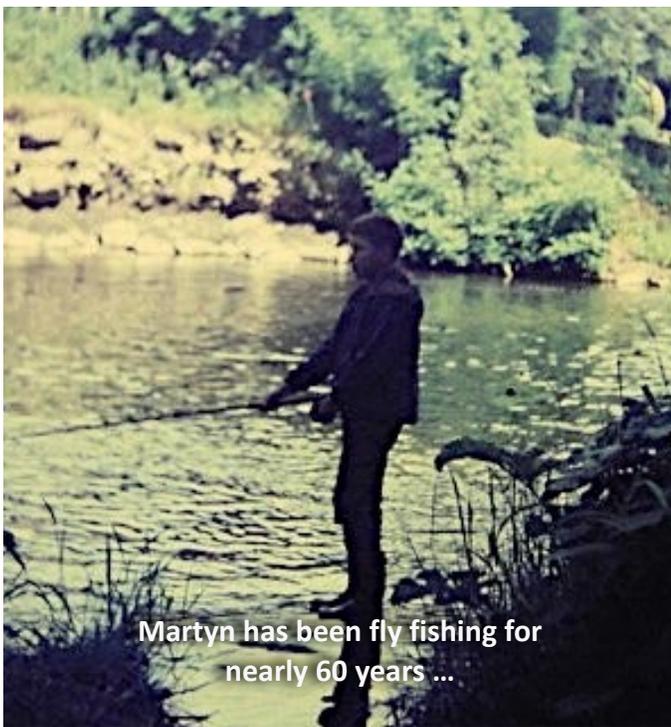
## What is your favorite water to fish?

I love the Deep Creek area with the Yough’, Casselman, Savage, and North Branch of the

Potomac which has such a variety of rivers and fishing. More locally I enjoy the Gunpowder.

## What is your best fly fishing memory?

Fly fishing with my father back in Wales. Most of the fishing was done at night for Sewin (seatrout/migratory browns) and any noise or light was frowned upon. So even today I have difficulty tying knots while looking at them in daylight. Apparently Welsh fish have extraordinary perceptive powers and anything less than 200 yards had to be traversed without the sounds of footsteps, splashes, conversation, or heavy breathing. A stubbed toe or branch in the face was just an opportunity to demonstrate



Martyn has been fly fishing for nearly 60 years ...



... and he still has some of his original gear!

pain management! Nothing beats fishing on a river in semi darkness; it's amazing how your eyes adjust, for the new run of fresh fish that would always give an aerial display, often before politely waving goodbye. I started fly fishing at an early age and got to fish with stuff that my father passed on to me. My first fly rod was a bamboo rod that had been converted from a Coarse fishing rod (think sitting on a wicker basket waiting for perch and carp to bite) and so was just a tad stiffer than optimal for an 8 year old. I then graduated to a real fly rod, a 9-foot bamboo rod, and I am not sure of the line designation as my line was silk which got heavier as the night went on and was subject to daily cleaning and drying. Fly fishing for a kid was hard work! For many years I also did all of

my fishing in wellies that were invariably  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch lower than the rivers we would cross to prime fishing spots at night. Very comfortable! My next rod was a 9 1/2 foot fiberglass tent pole which I am sure gave me bad habits that I carry today — at least I then got a covered fly line that needed far less maintenance. After that I did get a decent split cane rod which unfortunately got destroyed during my wasted years, apparently in a “swordfight” by 12 year olds!! I would have liked to try those rods on the rivers I fish today. I still have the old Intrepid reels I used and sometimes break them out for a backyard fling!

I learned to tie flies on a wood board perched on my living room chair with a Veniard vice, feathers collected from chickens in the yard and

thread pilfered from my Mom's sewing kit! OK so there were a few purchased items as well but few and far between.

### **What is your favorite fly?**

Light Cahill

### **If you could only fish with five flies, what would they be?**

(1) Adams; (2) Light Cahill; (3) Prince Beadhead; (4) Pheasant Tail Nymph; (5) Beadhead Stonefly Nymph.

### **What advice do you have for others?**

Always go out to enjoy the fresh air, nature and the ability to lose yourself in the challenge of finding fish and presenting your fly to them in the most natural way possible. Although it

sounds counter intuitive, catching fish should be secondary to the experience.

### **What is your bucket list fly-fishing trip?**

New Zealand – I have been there several times on business but never took advantage of staying a while to fish – those “wasted” years again!!

### **When did you join the club?**

I joined the club two years ago.

### **Do you have any memories of past club events or members you would like to share?**

The remote fly tying has been a sanity saver over the last two years and I have thoroughly enjoyed the efforts of all involved. Due to covid and work, my ability to go on fishing trips with the group has been limited but I do look forward to many in the future.

## **Mentor Program Volunteers Needed**

Our mentor program is geared toward helping folks that have little or no experience in fly fishing. Volunteer mentors provide customized instruction, both on and off the stream, in all areas of fly fishing and introduce new members to club activities. The overall goal is to recruit more club members and produce capable, self-sufficient fly fisherman who will become long time club members and contribute to club activities. If you have a good base of fly fishing knowledge that could be of use to a beginning fisherman, please consider volunteering to be a mentor. Sign up today on our website at [pvff.club/mentor-program/](http://pvff.club/mentor-program/)

— Kevin Haney

## **Seeking Backup for Newsletter Prep**

Do you have an interest in editing, design, and page layout? We are seeking a volunteer to serve as a backup to help prepare the monthly club newsletter. Training will be provided. Contact me at [contact@troykitch.com](mailto:contact@troykitch.com) if you're interested.

— Troy Kitch

# Sign Up Now: Annual Spring Fly Swap is Underway

By Larry Forte

As we have for the past few years, our club will host a spring fly swap for 2022. Here are the details: tie twelve flies to be shared with other members participating in the swap. Bring your flies to our March or April meeting. If we're still not meeting in person at this time, I will share details on how to drop your flies off. After I get everyone's flies, I will mail you a bunch of different flies tied by club members. The deadline to have your dozen flies to me is April 15th. If you would like to participate, please send me an email at [lbforte@verizon.net](mailto:lbforte@verizon.net).

## Upcoming Outings

### TOWN CREEK, MARYLAND

**Date:** March 13, 2022

**Time/Location:** 10 AM @ upper stocked section of Town Creek, Maryland

**Time on the Water:** 11 AM — 3 PM

**Outing Leader:** Larry Forte

**Contact:** [lbforte@verizon.net](mailto:lbforte@verizon.net) or 301-943-7533

### CATOCTIN CREEK, MARYLAND

**Date:** March 27, 2022

**Time:** TBD

**Location:** Catoctin Creek Nature Center

**Outing Leader:** Andy Mekelburg

**Contact:** [andymekelburg@outlook.com](mailto:andymekelburg@outlook.com)

## Calendar of Events

- Mar. 8** Club Meeting at 6:30 PM  
Tuscarora High School  
Room A170  
Frederick, Maryland
- Mar. 15** Beginner's Fly Tying  
7:00 PM  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Frederick, Maryland  
Room 207
- Mar. 16** Advanced Fly Tying  
7:00 PM  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Frederick, Maryland  
Room 109  
*(Zoom link provided for those who cannot attend in-person)*
- Mar. 24** Board of Directors' Meeting  
7:00 PM  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Frederick, Maryland  
Room 109

## 2022 PVFF Offices & Directors

President.....Andy Mekelburg  
Vice President.....Kevin Haney  
Secretary.....Owen Davis  
Treasurer.....Dennis Allen  
3 year Director.....Dave Dowiak  
2 year Director.....Troy Kitch  
1 year Director.....Kevin Lynn  
Past President.....Larry Forte

# Trout in the Classroom: Volunteers Needed

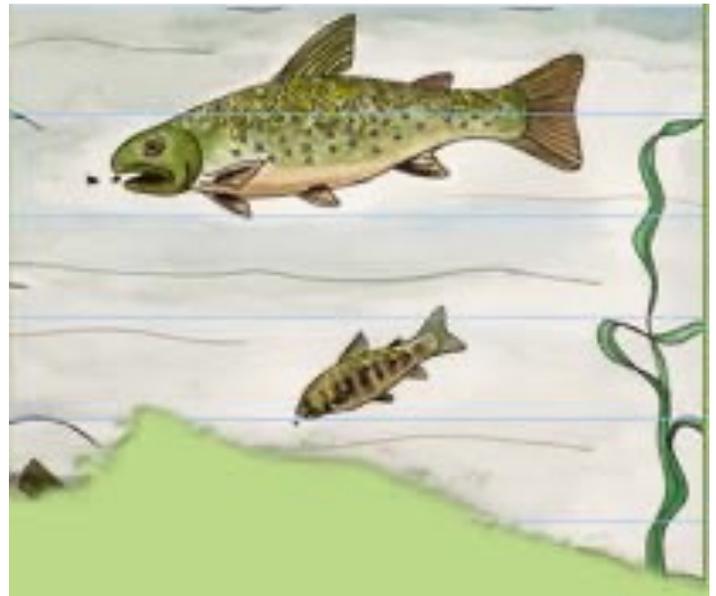
By Chuck Dinkel



One of our most important roles of organizations such as Trout Unlimited (TU) and Fly Fishers International (FFI) is to encourage the next generation to care for and understand the benefit of healthy streams and the fish that live in them. Building the next generation of stream stewards, ecologists and conservationists is important to TU and FFI. Through experiential education and hands-on projects Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is having a positive impact on our young people. To successfully continue these efforts, we need to add to our dedicated volunteer pool.

In most cases, the TIC program is delivered within our local schools through a partnership with TU. However, we have TIC programs operating at Nature Centers and within other youth organizations. Historically, members of Potomac Valley Fly Fishers and Antietam Fly Anglers have also assisted. No prior TIC experience is needed; training is provided.

The ideal volunteer is enthusiastic and ready to make a difference in the lives of our youth. Current volunteers report it is enjoyable to observe the gratification students experience during a TIC trout release, knowing it was their trout raising efforts and science education that brought them to this place. For many students the trout releasing is their first time experiencing a stream environment and a trip to the woods.



Some volunteer duties may include assisting in the set-up of fish tanks, delivering trout eggs to a local school, fixing or replacing aquarium related equipment, assisting with trout releases, and/or sharing your expertise in an educational area that would assist TIC students and teachers. Your time and donated efforts are highly flexible. We need whatever you can bring to our TIC program.

Please contact me if you are willing to volunteer your time. Our team will answer your questions and help you decide where and how to focus your efforts.

Email: [troutintheclassroomcd@gmail.com](mailto:troutintheclassroomcd@gmail.com)

Phone: 301-401-5066

# Last Cast

By Andy Mekelburg

**T**ime to get serious, the stockings have begun and the winter is finally showing signs of ebbing. Our last club meeting gave me a good start to planning my fishing this year, but more importantly, I hope it gave you some ideas. I did put together a list, as best I could, so I hope to tick my way down through it. The PVFF board met this week and we have started to plan for an exciting and “fish-full” year for the Club.

PVFF’s Board is made up of volunteers from the membership — and our job is to try to provide what the membership wants, which is why we have a wide range of activities for all levels of fishing skills, as well as for those who don’t necessarily want to fish, but just want to be outside helping create cleaner streams or planting trees or fly tying. At the same time, promoting the key aspect of fellowship, we all belong to PVFF because we share interests and we like to be with those who share our passion. Our membership has been growing well. Membership chairman Dave Dowiak reports that we now have 165 Members — but there are still a bunch who haven’t paid their 2022 dues. It’s only \$15 for single, \$20 for the family; and you can now use Paypal or credit card on our website, which makes renewing your membership easy.

It's important to let us know if there are other activities or presentations that you would be interested in for this year. Here are some of our plans:

We want to expand our Outings program. Mike Holland ([michaeldhollandjr@hotmail.com](mailto:michaeldhollandjr@hotmail.com)) is open to help put together gatherings wherever and whenever you want to go. One new idea: we are going to try to schedule an outing every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. That way we have a regularly scheduled day, particularly for those who work or can’t get out during the week. If you don’t work or just want to

fish during the week, let me know. The first outing is on March 13, when Larry Forte will host a trip to Town Creek. Next, I’ve volunteered to host an outing on March 27 at Catoctin Creek. We’ll be providing more details for these two events. If you want to host a weekly outing, or have a suggestion as to where we should go, let me or Mike know.

Kevin Haney ([kevinhaney1@outlook.com](mailto:kevinhaney1@outlook.com)) has been busy working on the Mentor program. It went well last year, but we still are in need of more mentors to meet demand. I found this to be an important program for beginners and also those who want to improve their skills.

PVFF continues to have very active fly tying programs for beginners and advanced tyers. Don Fine has crafted the Beginner’s program to suit absolute beginners who have never tied, as well as more experienced tyers who want to learn some new flies. The Advanced Fly Tying, coordinated by Larry Forte, has been a great success and we have a good core of tyers who alternate leading the month’s session. Joe Walther led a “wild” session in February, in which he taught us the Circus Peanut Fly (look it up).

We have many other activities in the works. Dave Keane is hosting a stream clean up on April 2 — details are on page 4 of this newsletter and on our website. We’ll also be holding our annual casting clinic at our May meeting, which will be held at Catoctin Creek Nature Center. Our annual picnic will be in June, also at the Nature Center. And our annual banquet is scheduled for October 22. This is not an all-inclusive list the things are we doing, so be sure to check our website or Facebook page for more information. We are an all volunteer organization, so if you have good ideas or if you’re interested in doing a little more to help your fellow members, please let me know.